

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments clarify the nature of Applicants' invention, and, therefore, put the claims in better condition for allowance and/or review on appeal. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, with particular attention to page 6, lines 17-28 and page 7, lines 1-4.

By the Office Action, the Patent Office rejected pending claims 1 and 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,937,676 issued to Finelli et al. The Patent Office also rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Finelli et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,561,462 issued to Nagano. Applicants traverse these rejections and request reconsideration of the claims as amended.

A. Summary of Applicants Invention.

Before turning to the substance of the rejections, a review of Applicants may be helpful. Applicants invention relates to a video printer for printing as a hard copy a video picture selected from a plurality of video pictures recorded as continuous motion images by a video camera.

B. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 1 and 3-6 stand rejected as being anticipated by Finelli et al. Finelli et al. relates to a readily portable electronic imaging system for use in the field and,

more particularly, to an electronic imaging system comprising both a camera and printer separately housed and readily connectable to an electronic image storage device

(col. 1, lines 7-13). Unlike the continuous motion video recording device defined by the pending claims, Finelli et al. clearly discloses a portable handheld camera used for taking still pictures. For example, Finelli et al. discloses that

[h]andheld electronic imaging cameras that can electronically record an image of a scene and thereafter print out a hard copy print of the recorded image on a nonphotosensitive image receiving sheet ... are known in the art

(col. 1, lines 16-23). These devices however suffer from the limitation of being built as an "integral unit and both must be carried into the field together whenever the camera is used" (col. 1, lines 23-26) (emphasis added). Thus, Finelli et al. states that

it is a primary object of this invention to provide a compact, handheld electronic imaging system comprising both a camera and printer separately housed and readily interconnectable for selective use either together or apart.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a compact, handheld electronic imaging system comprising an electronic camera and printer usable either apart or in connection with respect to each other wherein the printer can provide a photographic quality hard copy print of the image recorded by the camera

(col. 1, lines 34-44) (emphasis added).

The Applicants invention, as defined by the amended claims, relates to a video printer for printing on a printing paper as a hard copy a video picture selected from a plurality of video pictures recorded by a video camera as continuous motion images. Finelli et al. does not disclose nor suggest such a device. Rather, Finelli et al. discloses the use of an electronic imaging camera for recording a "still" image of a scene and printing a hard copy of that image or storing same to a memory device (col. 4, lines 28-37). For example, Finelli explains,

[r]eferring now to FIG. 3, there is shown a circuit block diagram for the electronic imaging system 10 of this invention. The electronic imaging camera 12 comprises the objective taking lens 30 for viewing the scene to be electronically recorded and

directing the image defining scene light rays to a two-dimensional photoresponsive area array as shown at 92 preferably comprising a high resolution charge coupled device (CCD) or alternatively a charge injection device (CID). The photoresponsive array 92 is controlled by a shutter as shown at 90. The duration of each still image exposure interval is controlled in a conventional manner by way of an exposure, strobe, and focus control circuit 96

(col. 5, lines 5-23) (emphasis added). As Applicants stated in the response filed on January 7, 1998, "[a] close examining of Finelli et al. does not reveal either video printer housing or video camera." This is so because Finelli et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest the use of a video printer for printing hard copies of images recorded by a video camera as continuous motion images as claimed by Applicants. Applicants acknowledge the Patent Office's position that Finelli "includes a video signal processing unit (100)" (emphasis original). However, the invention disclosed by Finelli et al. is limited to "video" pictures recorded as "still" images, not continuous motion images as claimed by Applicants.

It is well settled that anticipation is proper only if a single reference discloses each and every element claimed by the pending claims. This is not so in the case at hand. Wholly absent from Finelli et al. is any discussion or teaching of printing video pictures from a plurality of video pictures recorded as continuous motion images.

Finally, as the technology for recording continuous motion video images and that for recording still video images must account for different factors that affect the quality of the images produced, the Finelli et al. disclosure does not anticipate the claimed invention, nor is the claimed invention, as a whole, obvious in view of Finelli et al. While basic knowledge may exist in the field concerning the factors that must be accounted for in moving from still image technology to motion picture technology, it would be

impermissible hindsight to presume that a person of ordinary skill, after reading Finelli et al., would be in possession of Applicant's claimed invention, as complex filtering systems would undoubtedly be required to fabricate Applicants invention based on a reading of Finelli et al.

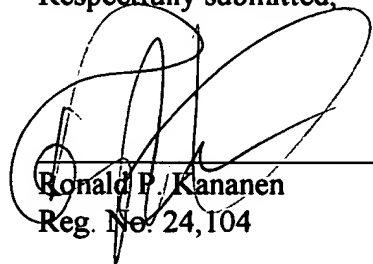
C. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicants acknowledge the Patent Office's comments with regard to the rejection of claim 2 as being unpatentable under Finelli et al. in view of Nagano et al. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Finelli et al. and Nagano et al. when read together do not render obvious the invention as a whole defined by the pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a).

Respectfully submitted,



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